

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 PC-10

DRC-01 /144 W

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O P 281830Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5569

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: CA SUMMIT POSTPONED

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. GOES ANNOUNCED MAY 27 THAT IT WOULD SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF THE CA SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 29. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING VISIT HERE BY GENERAL SOMOZA MAY 26 WHO CONFERRED PRIVATELY WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA ABOUT THE MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE. COMMUNIQUE NOTES STANDING SALVADORAN POSITION THAT THE PROPOSED MWWTING "SHOULD OFFER POSSIBILITIES OF SOMETHING POSITIVE AND CONCRETE FOR ALL CENTRAL AMERICA" AND ASSERTS THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED FOR PREPARATORY WORK TO ASSURE SUCCESS. NO DATE FOR ANY FURTHER FUTURE SUMMIT IS OFFERED.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS RECENT INDICATIONS THAT GOES HAS BECOME
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SOMEWHAT UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE JALAPA GATHERING. FONMIN

BORGONOVO WHO ALL ALONG HAS BEEN LESS SANGUINE THHAN MOLINA ABOUT THE SUMMIT, RECENTLY TOPD US THAT HE SAW LITTLE PROSPECT FOR A BREAKTHROUGH ON KEY ISSUE OF THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE. HE ALSO QUESTIONED WHY SALVADOR SHOULD ATTEND A MEETING WHERE IT MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FROM THE NEUTRAL THREE TO COMPROMISA ITS POSITION. MOLINA, WHILE CONSTANTLY REITERATING HIS WILLINGNESS TO ATTEN (SAN SALVADOR 2030), HAS INDICATED INCREASINGLY THAT SALVADORAN ATTENDANCE WAS DEPENDENT UPON PROSPECTS FOR SIGNIFICANT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE HONDURAS/SALVADOR AND CACM ISSUES. THE GOES DECISION TO POSTPONE SUMMIT MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ALSO ON RECENT VISITS BY HLC REPRESENTATIVE BUITRAGO TO SAN JOSE AND TEGUCIGALPA WHO RETURNED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MEETING.

3. AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS PROBABLY GOES FEELING THAT LITTLE IS TO BE GAINED FROM THE SUMMIT SINCE THE POSITIONS OF HONDRAS AND EL SALVADOR ON THE CRUCIAL BOUNDARY QUESTION APPARENTLY REMAIN UNCHANGES SINCE THE BI-LATERAL TALKS IN MEXICO WERE SUSPENDED LAST DECEMBER; AND THAT ATTENDANCE WITHOUT ANY ASURANCES OF PROGRESS MIGHT BEAR A DOMESTIC PRICE TAG. GIVEN THE CONTROVERSY THAT AROSE LOCALLY FOLLOWING THE MEXICO TALKS, THE GOES MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT AROUSING SIMILAR CRITICISM, I.E., THAT SALVADORAN INTERESTS HAD BEEN SOLD OUT SHOULD IT COME AWAY FROM THE SUMMIT EMPTY HANDED. IN SUM, FROM THE SALVADORAN POINT OF VIEW THERE WAS LITTLE TO BE GAINED INPARTICIPATING AND SOMETHING TO BE LOST. PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF THE HONDURAS/SALVADOR DISPUTE, NEVER BRIGHT AT BEST, SEEM INCREASINGLY DIM. EVEN PRESIDENT MOLINA, WHO HAS PUBLICLY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO ACHIEVE SUCH A SETTLEMENT, IS NOW STATING PRIVATELY THAT THE BEST THAT HE CAN HOPE FOR IS TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR SETTLEMENT DURING HIS TENURE, UPON WHICH HIS SUCCESSOR CAN BUILD.
CAMPBELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE MEETINGS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANS02119
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0698
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740514/aaaaalsu.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CA SUMMIT POSTPONED GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP
TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO, XK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005